

# EXHIBIT A

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Sidle et al.

Serial No.: 10/643,644

Group Art Unit: 2166

Filed: August 19, 2003

Examiner: Saeed, Usmaan

For: INCREMENTAL AST MAINTENANCE USING WORK AREAS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

We, Richard Sidle, Roberta Cochrane, Hamid Pirahesh, Songting Chen, and Themistoklis Palpanas, hereby declare the following:

Richard Sidle, Roberta Cochrane, Hamid Pirahesh, and Themistoklis Palpanas are co-authors of the following paper: Palpanas et al., NPL "Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions", Proceedings of the 28<sup>th</sup> VLDB Conference, Hong Kong, China, 2002.

"Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions" was published on August 20, 2002.

“Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions” discusses aspects of the invention defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644, filed on August 19, 2003.

Richard Sidle, Roberta Cochrane, and Hamid Pirahesh are joint inventors of the invention defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

Songting Chen is a joint inventor of the invention defined by claims 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27, which are cancelled by amendment, of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

Cancellation of claims 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 removes Songting Chen’s contribution to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644; thus, Songting Chen is not a joint inventor of the invention defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

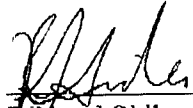
Although Themistoklis Palpanas is a co-author on “Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions” (August 2002), he is not an inventor of the invention defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

The portions of “Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions” that Themistoklis Palpanas contributed to are not defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

Therefore, Richard Sidle, Roberta Cochrane and Hamid Pirahesh are the *only* joint inventors of the invention defined by claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644. Further, because Richard Sidle, Roberta Cochrane, and Hamid Pirahesh are also co-authors of “Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions”, “Incremental Maintenance for Non-Distributive Aggregate Functions” describes Applicants’ own work and should therefore be removed as a reference against claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,644.

The above declarations are made according to the best of our recollection upon review of the appropriate documents and notes, and we hereby acknowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon. All statements that are made herein of our own knowledge are true and all statements that are made herein based on information and belief are believed to be true.

[Signature Pages Follow]

  
Richard Sidle      May 30, 2006  
(Date)

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Roberta Cochrane      (Date)

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Hamid Pirahesh      (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Songting Chen      (Date)

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Themistoklis Palpanas      (Date)

Richard Sidle (Date)

Roberta Cochrane 5/30/06  
Roberta Cochrane (Date)

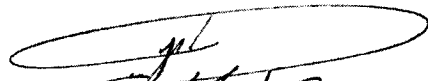
Hamid Pirahesh (Date)

Songting Chen (Date)

Themistoklis Palpanas (Date)

Richard Sidle (Date)

Roberta Cochrane (Date)

  
Hamid Pirahesh June 16 2006 (Date)

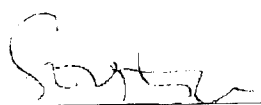
Songting Chen (Date)

Themistoklis Palpanas (Date)

Richard Sidle (Date)

Roberta Cochrane (Date)

Hamid Pirahesh (Date)

 May. 30 2006  
Songting Chen (Date)

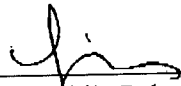
Themistoklis Palpanas (Date)

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